

CLAIMS

1. A method of determining the germination vigour and/or the storage capability of a seed batch, characterized in that it comprises quantifying, on a sample of seeds taken from said batch, the proteins recognized by anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibodies directed against a region of said protein defined by the sequence (I): RYVPLTSRX₁X₂QLX₃ (SEQ ID NO: 1), in which X₁ represents E, V or S, X₂ represents A or E, and X₃ represents R, G or Q.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the quantification of the L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase is carried out using an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibody chosen from:
- an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibody directed against a region of said protein defined by the sequence (I);
 - an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibody directed against a region of said protein defined by the sequence (II): QX₄LX₅VX₆DKX₇X₈DGSX₉X₁₀X₁₁ (SEQ ID NO: 2), in which X₄ represents D or E, X₅ represents Q or K, X₆ represents V or I, X₇ represents N or S, X₈ represents S, E or A, X₉ represents either a dipeptide chosen from IS, VS, VT and TS, or a peptide bond, X₁₀ represents I or V, and X₁₁ represents K, Q or R.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that use is made of an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibody chosen from:
- an antibody directed against a peptide of sequence QDLQVVDKNSDGSVSIK (SEQ ID NO: 3);

- an antibody directed against a peptide of sequence RYVPLTSREAQLR (SEQ ID NO: 5).

4. The anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase antibody
5 as defined in either of claims 2 and 3.
5. A method of quantifying the L-isoaspartyl methyl-
transferase in plant material, characterized in
that it comprises bringing said material into
10 contact with an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltrans-
ferase antibody as claimed in claim 4.
6. The use of an anti-L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase
antibody as claimed in claim 4, for determining
15 the germination vigour and/or the storage
capability of a seed batch.